

Introduction

The Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), provides scientific assessments of topics in the biomedical sciences. Reports are based upon comprehensive literature reviews and the scientific opinions of knowledgeable investigators engaged in specific areas of biology and medicine.

Within the last few years the public and its governmental bodies have become increasingly concerned about possible health hazards arising from chemical wastes in disposal sites. These chemicals and their products may create public health problems by contaminating water supplies, air, and food. The nature and severity of these potential effects are difficult to assess or predict. Accordingly, LSRO, under a contract from Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology (UAREP), agreed to collaborate in a comprehensive review and expert assessment of the contribution of epidemiology to the health aspects of disposal of selected waste chemicals. An Epidemiology Workshop was arranged under the chairmanship of Reuel A. Stallones, and eminent scientists were invited to present papers on the following topics: Variability of Public Health Indices, Potential Health Effects of Chemicals, Social and Attitudinal Problems in Epidemiology, Epidemiology of Drinking Water, Clustering Problems and Existing Data on Health Effects of Waste Disposal Sites. The papers

in this volume of *Environmental Health Perspectives* are a compilation of this series of presentations.

The manuscripts from the workshop were reviewed and approved by the LSRO Advisory Committee (consisting of representatives of each constituent society of FASEB) under authority delegated by the Executive Committee of the Federation Board. Upon completion of the review procedures, the report was approved and transmitted to the Editor of *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

LSRO acknowledges the support of UAREP and the participation of its Executive Scientific Panel (ESP) on the Health Aspects of Disposal of Selected Waste Chemicals, J. W. Grisham, Chairman; the ESP Subcommittee on Epidemiology, R. A. Stallones, Chairman, with Morton Corn, John E. Davies, and Eugene V. Perrin representing the ESP. Staff support in LSRO was provided by Richard D. Allison, and Caren L. Feldman; staff support in UAREP was provided by Richard W. Leukroth, Jr. and Thomas A. Hill. Editorial assistance was provided by Ralph C. Wands.

While this is a report of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of each individual member of the FASEB constituent Societies.

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